

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1.-31. **(Canceled)**

32. **(Currently amended)** A method of treating a teat of an animal with the device of Claim 1 comprising:

~~the step of inserting said a device through a teat~~ an orifice of the teat and into a teat streak canal during involution; and

retaining the device in position within the teat streak canal without any part of the device penetrating outwards beyond an epithelium of the teat orifice.

33. **(Currently amended)** A method of treating an animal as claimed in Claim 32 including a the further step of delivering one or more treatment substances to the teat streak canal.

34.-37. **(Canceled)**

38. **(Currently amended)** The method as claimed in Claim 32, wherein the retaining comprises retaining ~~comprising a further step of retaining~~ the device within the teat streak canal for a time sufficient for the device to integrate with endogenous keratin to form a composite plug.

39. **(New)** The method as claimed in Claim 32, further comprising degrading the device within the teat streak canal over time.

40. **(New)** The method as claimed in Claim 32, wherein the device acts as a physical barrier to prevent unwanted passage of substances through the teat streak canal.

41. **(New)** The method as claimed in Claim 32, further comprising:

milking the animal and ceasing milking the animal prior to the inserting;

drying off after the inserting; and

retaining the device within the teat streak canal after a build up in milk pressure that occurs immediately after the drying off without the device being ejected.

42. **(New)** The method as claimed in Claim 32, further comprising dislodging the device from the teat streak canal by milk pressure generated as a consequence of lactogenesis.

43. **(New)** The method as claimed in Claim 32, wherein the retaining is enhanced by one or more surface features of the device.

44. **(New)** The method as claimed in Claim 43, wherein said one or more surface features include one or more grooves.

45. (New) The method as claimed in Claim 43, wherein said one or more surface features include a spiral thread.

46. (New) The method as claimed in Claim 43, wherein said one or more surface features include a plurality of protrusions.

47. (New) The method as claimed in claim 43, wherein the inserting of the device occurs with minimal dislodgement of keratin.

48. (New) The method as claimed in Claim 32, wherein the device does not extend into a teat cistern.